

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 04939 061245Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----035563 061250Z /42  
O 061145Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 04939

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EXDIS

FOR UNDER SECCETARY CHRISTOPHER AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
VEST

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: :INT, SS  
SUBJECT: REPRESENTATIONS TO AMBASSADOR ROVIRA REGARDING  
REPORTED NEGATIVE OFFICIAL STATEMENTS CONCERNING  
AMBASSADOR TODMAN

1. UNDER SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MIGUEL SOLANO  
CALLED ME THIS MORNING REGARDING REPRESENTATIONS HE  
SAID WERE MADE YESTERDAY BY UNDER SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER  
AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST TO AMBASSADOR ROVIRA  
OVER REPORTED NEGATIVE REMARKS MADE BY MIDDLE-LEVEL  
FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS REGARDING THE APPOINTMENT  
OF AMBASSADOR TODMAN TO MADRID.

2. SOLANO SAID THE MINISTRY HAD BEEN SURPRISED AND  
TAKEN ABACK BY THESE REPRESENTATIONS BECAUSE THE SPANISH  
GOVERNMENT HAD HAD NO RESERVATIONS ABOUT ACCEPTING  
AMBASSADOR TODMAN, HAD GRANTED AGREEMENT RAPIDLY, AND  
WOULD GIVE HIM EVERY SUPPORT IN HIS MISSION WHEN  
HE ARRIVED. IT HAD, IN FACT A VERY FAVORABLE  
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VIEW OF AMBASSADOR TODMAN, HAVING HAD EXCELLENT  
REPORTS REGARDING HIM FROM, AMONG OTHERS, JUAN ANTONIO  
PEREZ-URRUTI, WHO HAD SERVED WITH HIM IN COSTA  
RICA AND WAS NOW IN THE MINISTRY. SOLANO WAS LOW  
KEY IN WHAT HE SAID ABOUT THE REPRESENTATIONS.

2. I SAID I WAS SURE THE REPRESENTATIONS STEMMED

FROM THE MEISLER ARTICLE IN THE "WASHINGTON POST". WHEN SOLANO COMMENTED THAT HE HAD NOT READ THE ARTICLE BUT THAT THE "POST" WAS ALWAYS TRYING TO MAKE TROUBLE, I SAID I DID NOT THINK IT WAS QUITE THAT SIMPLE AND I BELIEVED MEISLER PROBABLY HAD A BASIS FOR WHAT HE HAD WRITTEN IN TERMS OF COMMENTS THAT MIGHT VERY WELL HAVE BEEN MADE TO HIM BY A MIDDLE-LEVEL FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIAL. SOLANO REPLIED THAT MIDDLE-LEVEL OFFICIALS DID NOT SPEAK FOR THE TOP LEVEL OF THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT, AND REPEATED THAT THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT WOULD WELCOME AMBASSADOR TODMAN. I SUBSEQUENTLY SENT SOLANO THE TEXT OF THE MEISLER ARTICLE.

3. THE BASIS FOR MY RESPONSE TO SOLANO, ALTHOUGH I DID NOT TELL HIM THIS, WAS THAT A MIDDLE-LEVEL FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIAL WHO IS KNOWN FOR HIS TENDENCY TO BE CRITICAL, MADE REMARKS TO ME ALONG THE SAME LINES AS THOSE REPORTED BY MEISLER AT PROBABLY THE SAME COCKTAIL PARTY. MY REPLY TO HIM WAS THAT AMBASSADOR TODMAN IS A HIGHLY RESPECTED PROFESSIONAL WITH A FINE CAREER WHO HAS ALREADY HAD THREE EMBASSIES AND AN ASSISTANT SECRETARYSHIP AND THAT I WAS SURE HE SUPPORTED THE UNITED STATES HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY AND WOULD DO AN EXCELLENT JOB IN MADRID. I HAVE ASKED MISSION PERSONNEL TO

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RESPOND TO ANY NEGATIVE COMMENTS OR SPECULATION ALONG THE SAME LINES AND ALSO NOT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ISSUE BY REPEATING NEGATIVE COMMENTS THEY MAY HEAR FROM OTHERS.

4. I WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED OF WHAT WAS SAID IN THE REPRESENTATIONS TO ROVIRA. EATON

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Review Markings:**  
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